

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2008
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Burg – Present
Commissioner Lindell – Present
Commissioner Sheldon – Absent
Commissioner Smith – Present
Commissioner Swain – Absent
Commissioner Acton – Absent
Chairman Backer – Present

At this time there was a 2 minute recess to allow Chairman Backer to get documents from his vehicle.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes from the October 7, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Lindell to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burg.

VOTE:

All in favor VOTE: 4-0 with 3 Absent Motion Carried

Approval of the minutes from the October 14, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Lindell to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burg.

VOTE:

All in favor VOTE: 4-0 with 3 Absent Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission discussed the review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Backer stated that he was responsible for annexation. He allowed each of the commissioners to look at his report. He mentioned that as discussed if we do not add annexation to the Town Charter or to our Comprehensive Plan the Town will not be able annex land.

Chairman Backer asked if anyone else had turned in their Comprehensive Review.

Commissioner Lindell stated that his review was submitted before the October 31, 2008 deadline.

Commissioner Burg stated that he had turned his in prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Burg stated that he had spoken to Commissioner Sheldon earlier in that day and he had mentioned that he would not be attending the meeting due to business and was unable to get to a phone.

Commissioner Lindell stated that fortunately a week before his report on housing was due, the Town Manager; John Giles had received an email from the Delaware State Housing Authority regarding the work plan for evaluating the housing status in the Town. He stated that this particular email made his work easy because it had a lot of the numbers in it for him and it gave him a timeline to work from in the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that there will be a drive-by survey within the current week, and will be fairly comprehensive throughout the next year.

Commissioner Burg stated that he would like to address the states decision to not lower the speed along Kirkwood Hwy.

Chairman Backer asked what the difference is between the Town and where just over the bridge into Wilmington where the speed drops down to 25 MPH.

Commissioner Burg stated that he was not aware of this reason. However he would like to address the possibility of using traffic calming down the Kirkwood Hwy area. He gave an example of the traffic calming in Greenville and the effect it has in slowing down the traffic speed.

Commissioner Lindell stated that this should be added into the Comprehensive Plan for this year.

Chairman Backer stated that it should be added and that the state will either ask for more information or tell the Town “No” but at least it will have been attempted. However the state will not be looking at any of this information until at least January when the staffing change occurs with the new Governor.

Chairman Backer asked if any of the commissioners have looked at the Comprehensive Plan Update Questionnaire.

Chairman Backer read the questionnaire for the record.

Commissioner Burg commented that the Elsmere Police Department has really stepped up with the number of raids they are doing and the sweeps of the Town.

Chairman Backer stated that he was impressed with the Police Department when he saw several officers walking the Town on foot together discussing different topics, and he thought that was a great thing to see.

Chairman Backer commented on the positive resident feedback that he has received regarding the weekly yard waste pick-up and how the residents feel that this is a great thing to continue.

Chairman Backer commended the Code Enforcement Office for the appearance of the Town.

Commissioner Lindell recommended that the Town continue to have an annual clean up day as they did this year and he feels that it was a great success.

Chairman Backer stated that the Annexation, Transportation, and Housing portions of the Comprehensive Plan review have been completed.

Chairman Backer commented that the Town should continue to monitor the use of properties as schools and churches.

Commissioner Burg stated that the Town needs to look into helping the Corpus Christi School because of the number of parochial schools that are being closed, and the Town should some how show its support for the school.

Chairman Backer mentioned that the Delaware State Housing Authority is conducting a field survey of the Town on November 5, 2008.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Burg to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith.

VOTE:

All in favor VOTE: 4-0 with 2 Absent Motion Carried

At this time the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes summarize the agenda items and other issues discussed at the November 3, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tape(s) may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

LEON BACKER, CHAIRMAN

CHARLES LINDELL, SECRETARY